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The North Carolina Booklet

GREAT EVENTS
IN
NORTH CAROLINA
HISTORY

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BY
THE NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION

CONTENTS

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The North Carolina Booklet.

Great Events in North Carolina History.

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"Carolina! Carolina! Heaven's blessings attend her!
While we live we will cherish, protect and defend her."

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THE NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY

DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION

The object of the Booklet is to aid in developing and preserving North Carolina History. The proceeds arising from its publication will be devoted to patriotic purposes. Editors.

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BOOKLET.

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NORTH CAROLINA'S ATTITUDE TO THE REVOLUTION.

BY ROBERT C. STRONG.

An attitude is a relative quality. Surrounding circumstances and conditions combine with and are a part of it. These were of a threefold character in North Carolina during the revolutionary period of her history: First, our colony had to neutralize the effect of the War of Regulation; second, she had to deal with the disaffected Cumberland district, and, third, she had to overcome opposition to her movements for independence by leaders whom she had theretofore followed. Her success in meeting these great difficulties was a national triumph.

The district of the trouble which caused the War of Regulation comprised the counties of Guilford, Orange and parts of Rowan and Granville. The culmination of this trouble was the battle of Alamance, of 1771, only a few years before the Declaration of Independence. The feeling of hostility arising from this source was such that the Convention of Hillsborough could not totally alleviate. Organized opposition in the Cumberland section to the national cause and the steps taken by the State therein, culminated in the battle of Moore's Creek on February 27, 1776; but resistance did not cease during the war. This disaffected district reached up from South Carolina and lay in North Carolina between the far divisions of Bladen and Rowan counties. Taking this in

connection with the section of the Regulators, it made a broad section of disaffected country sweeping up from South Carolina around to the west of the center of our State and back again, reaching upward nearly to the Virginia line. The British naturally considered North Carolina an easy mark, and in consequence laid their plans to operate through the port of Charleston; recruit their army by marching around and to the south of the Cumberland district, thence northward, to fall upon us from the west.

Our Representatives at the Continental Congress feared this more than they should have done. They used all methods they thought would be effective in calling upon the patriotic sentiment of the western counties, and it was not until they were present at the Convention at Hillsborough did they recognize their mistake.

This Convention met on August 20, 1775, and especially to be noticed in the full representation of the counties was that from the western counties, concerning which such useless fears had been expended. Saunders, in his Prefatory Notes, says: "Time proves all things, and it needed not much time after the struggle for freedom and for independence began to show what was the worth and what was the temper of the people of the center and west. How patriotic the feeling among them was, and how thoroughly united they were is apparent from the fact that, in spite of all the threats and all the inducements held out to them, 'not more than a hundred people of the county' could be enlisted under the King's banner in February, 1776, the rest being 'Highlanders,' new-comers, not yet incorporated into the body politic, in sentiment, at least, of North Carolina."

These changes of condition were not brought about by impulsive enthusiasm or domination of the majority voice in the Convention. The cause was not sought to be compro-

mised, but their faith in its rectitude caused them to give time for more careful thought to those holding the minority view. The six months' adjournment of the Convention to Halifax thus put the reins of a temporary government, so vitally essential, more firmly in their hands.

The early months of the year 1776 found Continental Congress in a state of indecision as to the final acts of separation, delaying necessary and unavoidable measures upon various pretexts. England had refused the North Carolina colony the right to issue currency. It was found that making certain commodities a medium of exchange did not meet the exigencies of the situation, and debenture bonds had to be issued redeemable at certain dates from taxes to be collected. They were only good among the colonists and were to meet the emergency of paying off a debt incurred in an Indian war. Abroad they had no value. Financial emergencies had to be provided for and perplexing financial situations faced. We can therefore appreciate the fear expressed in a letter written by Mr. Penn, our Continental delegate, to Mr. Person, a member of our Provincial Council, of February 14, 1776:

> Matters are drawing to a crisis. They seem determined to persevere, and are forming alliances against us. Must we not do something of the like nature? Can we hope to carry on a war without having trade or commerce somewhere? Can we ever pay taxes without it? Will our paper money depreciate if we go on emitting? These are serious things, and require your consideration. The consequences of making alliances is, perhaps, a total separation with Britain, and without something of the sort we may not be able to procure what is necessary for our defense. * * *

Soon after receiving this momentous communication, the third of the following March, the Provincial Council ordered an assembling of our Congress to be held at Halifax on April 2, 1776. On the fourth the Provincial delegates met. On the eighth a committee of seven was appointed to draft appropriate measures; and on the twelfth their recommendation

by resolution was unanimously adopted. This resolution, thus formed with that deliberate haste which can only be accorded to the disposition of the truly great, has given us the revered date of "12th April, 1776," for our State flag:

> Resolved, That the delegates for our colony in the Continental Congress be empowered to concur with the delegates of the other colonies in declaring Independence, and forming foreign alliances, reserving to this colony the sole and exclusive right of forming a constitution and laws for this colony, and for appointing delegates from time to time (under the direction of a general representation thereof) to meet the delegates of the other colonies for such purposes as shall be hereafter pointed out.

This authoritative expression preceded by more than a month that of any other of the colonies. It was decisive upon the questions of independence and the forming of foreign alliances, and its reservation was not only consistent with the spirit of those times, but is indicative of the opposition of our people to-day to any encroachment upon the rights of this State and to centralization of power at Washington.

While at this Convention a constitution could have been adopted as well as later, yet, in the spirit of forbearance and for the purpose of creating harmony, such action was again postponed. On December the 18th, 1776, the colony declared her independence of British rule. There was a full representation, conservative, considerate of the small minority views, but resolute in the face of opposition from those who had been wont to lead. It was a movement of the people, and not of their leaders, though leaders of their own views arose to the occasion. They were strengthened by the wise course which they had pursued at the Convention at Hillsborough, and the "Declaration of Rights," with the Constitution incorporating it, proclaim their framers as men of moral and intellectual force and of great culture. Yet Mr. Johnston, in one of his letters, says of them: "Every one

who has the least pretentions to be a gentleman is suspected and borne down *per ignobile vulgus*—a set of men without reading, experience or principle to govern them." Notwithstanding, eleven of the twelve of these declarations of the bill were adopted in the Federal Bill of Rights, and the matters of the Constitution then adopted are for the greater part familiar to us in our own constitutional government of to-day.

The Representatives of the colony in the Continental Congress misunderstood her people, as we have seen, and learned them aright in Hillsborough. Her agents in England likewise undervalued their disposition. Destiny pointed in but one direction, working through an inflexible human agency, and human acts were impotent to change it. The people of the colony were astonished, outraged and indignant when they heard that the colony was not included in the act of the British Parliament of April, 1775, cutting off the trade of her sister colonies with Great Britain and the West Indies. On the date this act was to be operative, the 20th of July, 1775, the Committee at Wilmington, in the language of Saunders' Prefatory Notes, "formally and unanimously resolved that the exception of this colony out of the said act was a base and mean artifice to seduce them into a desertion of the common cause of America, and that North Carolina, refusing to accept advantages so insidiously thrown out, would continue to adhere strictly to the plans of the Continental Congress, and thus keep up a perfect unanimity with her sister colonies." It was afterwards that it was learned that the agents in England had substituted for the petition sent them "a memorial in more decent terms." Thus we glance backward from December 18, 1776, to July 20, 1775, for another view of the position that the colony assumed towards the common cause, and find the people unyielding in their consistency and uprightness. Through internal strife,

Indian troubles and dangers, financial straits, political disagreements of her people and sectional strategic difficulties, North Carolina, considered the weakest colony for attack, was prompt in maintaining her rights under the Stamp Act, in the town of Wilmington, and the foremost to throw overboard the vessel the tea upon which this tax was imposed, in the town of Edenton. This assertive spirit breathed through her people, and found expression, more or less formal, in many places, the most formal being that of Mecklenburg in May, 1775.

Despite the powerful opposition of leading citizens, looking forward from the time of the establishment of the temporary government at Hillsborough, we find a concert of deliberate and effective action. To this temporary government is greatly due the gallant aid given to repulse the British at Charleston on June 28, 1776. Quoting again from Saunders' Prefatory Notes:

> And so we have another instance of the efficiency of the temporary government established at Hillsborough. In a short twelve months it sent troops to the help of Virginia, and twice to that of South Carolina, fought the battle of Moore's Creek, and sent some three thousand men against the Cherokees. Within the year it put near ten thousand men into service in the field, certainly a very large proportion of its fighting population in so short a time.

For the history of North Carolina's part in the War of the Revolution, from the beginning of the year 1777 to the termination thereof, reference is made to the History of North Carolina, by Moore, beginning at chapter 12.

General Washington had but seven thousand men under his command when he took the field in the spring of 1777, almost too weak to oppose the British; but the defeat of Sir Peter Parker and Lord Cornwallis at Charleston, in June, 1776, left the way open for North Carolina to send him six batallions, numbering four thousand muskets. The first

and second batallions were of experience, and all were of great courage. In the battles of Princeton and Brandywine they won honor, and honor greater still at Germantown. At home, in the year 1778, the Tories could not make organized opposition, and so they formed a regiment at St. Augustine, Florida. The Legislature was busy with pressing affairs of government, among other things, gravely concerning the finances of the colony.

Having won distinction at the battle of Monmouth Courthouse in the engagement of June 28, 1778, and there being more need for their active service in the army of the South, five batallions of North Carolina troops were sent with General Lincoln to Charleston. In the beginning of the year 1779 two thousand North Carolina militia were sent to South Carolina. In Georgia defeat overtook the Continental forces, but of the character which enhanced their courage and determination. Let our attention revert to the North. At Stony Point, on the 19th day of July, our troops not only shared in the glory achieved by the Northern army, but occupied the post of honor and peril; and then, being needed in the South, were sent to Charleston.

The inevitable fall of Charleston on April 9, 1780, caused us the loss of our veteran troops, and gave occasion to the rise of Lord Cornwallis, and Tarleton, a partizan Loyalist, his "right arm." Tarleton surprised the Virginia troops at Waxhaw on May 29, 1780, as they were on their way to the relief of Charleston. In his opposition he was daring and formidable, and he and his Tory troops were a source of continuous menace. Had it not been for our successful issue at the battle of Moore's Creek, and the wise course taken at the Convention at Hillsborough, our history might have been written differently. As it was, great concern was felt for the unprotected condition of South Carolina and the loss of our

veteran troops at Charleston. Cornwallis was commanding four thousand British regulars, to oppose which there was only available a troop of cavalry and two companies of mounted infantry. Our resources were well-nigh drained, and the maintenance of armies was a very grave difficulty. Under these conditions it was cheering to our people to win over the Loyalists of North Carolina the small but important battle of Ramsour's Mill, fought in June, 1780. At this time Lord Cornwallis was with his army at Camden, South Carolina, awaiting supplies. General Gates, lacking in the forethought and consideration for the ideas of others that characterized our people, met with his disastrous defeat there, and fled to the town of Charlotte without providing for the safety of the men under his command. On the 8th day of September, 1780, Tarleton, having surprised and defeated Sumter's command, Cornwallis, counting upon reinforcements from the Tories of the State, moved forward to subjugate North Carolina with much assurance. Just before this time the fighting at Hanging Rock had taken place, and, following this, transpired the decisive battle of King's Mountain and the strategic movements of Morgan to intercept the reinforcements of Royalists for Cornwallis' army. Then followed the famous retreat of Morgan before the British, his uniting with Greene, and the further retreat to Guilford Court-house, where Cornwallis was defeated in his plans by his more than doubtful victory. Then began the retreat of the British army, which ended in its surrender to General Washington.

Conciliatory and forbearing, our colony achieved a victory over those who theretofore had been the leaders of thought and action within her borders, and when the occasion demanded, with more than heroic courage, she subjugated those of her people who would interfere in her fight for independ-

ence. She neutralized the effect of her foreign disaffected element as much as possible, and successfully met force with force upon occasions of vital importance to the entire Continental cause. Duty and devotion could call successfully upon her every resource, and especial privileges and bounties brought very poor results. So liberal was her contribution to the common cause, and so self-sacrificing was she of her strength, that on September 13, 1781, her Governor, while at Hillsborough with his suite and other prominent military and civil officers, fell into the hands of the Loyalists. The attempt to re-capture at Lindley's Mill, on Cane Creek in Chatham County, was brilliant but unavailing.

There yet remains to complete the thought contained in these pages the consideration of the principles which actuated such brilliant achievements. Like all great principles, they are of a simple nature.

The following extracts are from the Mecklenburg Petition for the Repeal of the Vestry and Marriage Acts, 1769.

> In the Great Charter, His Majesty confirms to his subjects removing from Great Britain into this province, and their descendants, all the rights, privileges and immunities to which His Majesty's subjects in Great Britain, to-wit, England and Scotland, are entitled. * * * We assure your excellency, Your Honours of the Council, the Honourable Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Burgesses, that we shall ever be more ready to support that Government under which we find the most liberty.

In speaking of the necessity of the Declaration of Independence James Iredell, in a letter to Joseph Hewes, written from Edenton June 9, 1776, said:

> I do not view the subject as a matter of ambition; in my opinion it is criminal and impolitic to consider it in that light; but as a matter of necessity; and in that case, in spite of every consequence (and very bad ones may be dreaded) I should not hesitate for an instant in acceding to it.

It is gratifying to know that Judge Iredell was one of our first judges, and that he afterwards acquired a national reputation. Also, that Mr. Johnston was placed in positions of trust by our people after the events of the Revolutionary War.

From the above quoted expressions we may judge the spirit of the times. The people had their rights under the Royal Charter, and, later, under the Great Deed or Grant from the Lords Proprietors. These rights were clear and unmistakable. They would live up to those rights, and enforce them when necessary. Feeling secure in them, they did not follow South Carolina in 1719 when she threw off the government of the Lords Proprietors. The third Royal Governor wrote home to England that he and the written instructions of the King were set at defiance, for that the people openly declared "that their charter still subsisted." Indeed, the people appeared to pay little heed to any arrangement that was made between King and Lords respecting them and their property. They appreciated charter rights by inheritance, and when necessary would enforce them without counting the cost. They were "ready to support that government under which they found the most Liberty" when in keeping with their Rights. This they Did, not as matters of Ambition, but those of Necessity.

This same spirit reaches upward into the disposition of our people of to-day, and presents an ever conservative but undaunted front. In more recent years it has been as splendid in its defeat as it was then exalted in its victory. To-day the wealth of the East and of the West are alike. The people of all sections are as one people, and Prosperity is their constant visitor. The United States are at Peace with themselves and with the World.

NOTE.—Biographical Sketch of above writer will appear in July number of Vol. VII.

JOHN LAWSON.

BY MARSHALL DeLANCEY HAYWOOD.

The writing of history has never met with much encouragement in North Carolina. Our first historian is said to have been burned alive. Should another, in this day and generation, adopt historical work as the sole means of gaining a livelihood, he might meet death in a no less miserable manner—by starvation. But, notwithstanding these trivial obstacles, the work goes forward. As we glance backward to find the forerunner of historians in our State (or Colony, as it then was), we must pass over Richard Hakluyt and other early writers who gave accounts of the settlements which were made under the patronage of Sir Walter Raleigh. These settlements never rose to the dignity of a province, were finally abandoned, and it was many years later before the name of Carolina appeared on the map as a British possession in America. Hence, the first historian of our State, and sometime Colony, was a sturdy adventurer and writer of no mean order, who made his first appearance in America in the Summer of 1700.

John Lawson, or *"John Lawson, Gentleman,"* as he preferred to style himself, tells us, in his narrative, how he reached the purpose of coming to America, in these words: "In the year 1700, when people flocked from all parts of the christian world to see the solemnity of the grand jubilee at Rome, my intention at that time being to travel, I accidentally met with a gentleman who had been abroad and was very well acquainted with the ways of living in both Indies; of whom, having made inquiry concerning them, he assured me that Carolina was the best country I could go to; and that there then lay a ship in the Thames in which I might have my

passage. I laid hold on this opportunity, and was not long on board before we fell down the river and sailed to Cowes; where, having taken in some passengers, we proceeded on our voyage."

After springing a leak, the vessel on which Lawson sailed was forced to put into port on one of the islands of Scilly, where the voyagers were hospitably entertained by the inhabitants during a stay of ten days. Setting sail once more on the 1st of May, the ship was thrown out of its course by adverse winds, and it was not until the latter part of July that Sandy Hook, in the Colony of New York, was reached. After remaining a fortnight in New York, Lawson's journey by sea was resumed; and, fourteen days later, he found himself in Charleston (or Charles Town, as it was then called), the capital and chief city of South Carolina. This colonial metropolis he highly praises, adding that South Carolina was as prosperous in condition as any English colony in America; and was a source of more revenue to the Crown than any of the more northern "plantations," except Virginia and Maryland.

It was on the 28th of December 1700, that Lawson left Charleston and began his journey through the wilderness to North Carolina. In his party were six Englishmen, three male Indians and a squaw—the last mentioned being wife of one of the three Indians. To tell how this band of explorers beat through swamps, forded creeks, went by canoe up and down rivers, camped in the forest by mountain and stream, held intercourse with the natives, were alarmed by wild beasts, and feasted on by mosquitoes, would make a narrative but little shorter than the journal in which Lawson recorded his "thousand miles traveled through several nations of Indians."

From the time of his first arrival on American soil, in 1700, Lawson remained eight years, returning to Europe late

in the Summer of 1708. In that year he was appointed Surveyor-General of the Colony. The first edition of his history made its appearance in 1709, being published in London. This was the only issue which came out during the lifetime of its author, though quite a number of posthumous editions have since been printed. Of the character and merits of this work later mention will be made.

During Mr. Lawson's stay in England he was engaged to assist Baron Christopher DeGraffenried in bringing his Swiss and German colonists to North Carolina. The place of their settlement was at the junction of the Neuse and Trent rivers. It was called New Bern, after Bern, in Switzerland, the Baron's native country. The site of New Bern had formerly been occupied by an Indian town known as Chatawka. From this town is said to be derived the name of the lake and settlement of Chatauqua in New York. To New York went a great majority of Tuscaroras under the leadership of Chief Hen-cock (or Hancock) a year or two later, thereby transferring to that colony many Indian names from North Carolina. It will be remembered that, prior to this migration northward of the Tuscaroras, the Indian confederacy in New York was known as the Five Nations—later becoming the Six Nations by the acquisition of the North Carolina tribe.

At a meeting held in London by the Lords Proprietors in August, 1709, Mr. Lawson was allowed the sum of twenty pounds for several maps made by him of the colonies of North Carolina and South Carolina. During the same year he was appointed, together with Edward Moseley, a commissioner to represent the Lords Proprietors in settling the uncertain boundary between North Carolina and the colony of Virginia. These commissioners entered upon their duties in 1710, but did not reach an agreement with the Commissioners of Vir-

ginia (Philip Ludwell and Nathaniel Harrison), and the line was not settled definitely until about twenty years later.

In September, 1711, being then at New Bern, Lawson proposed to Baron DeGraffenried to go on an exploring expedition up the Neuse River, to see how far that stream was navigable, and also to ascertain if a more direct overland road to Virginia could be laid out in that direction. Major Christopher Gale (afterwards Chief Justice) was to have accompanied this party; but, being advised of the illness of his wife and brother at the town of Bath, he abandoned his purpose in order to go to them. Lawson and DeGraffenried, however, set out on their journey, accompanied by two negroes to row the boats, and by two Indian guides. One of these Indians understood English and acted as interpreter for the party. After they had traveled some miles and were approaching the Indian village of Catechna, the voyagers were commanded by the natives to proceed no further. Fearing to disregard this order, the boats were pulled up at a spring on the river bank and preparations made to encamp for the night. DeGraffenried appreciated the danger of delay, and counseled immediate return without going into camp, when Lawson, who viewed the matter less seriously, laughed at his fears. But, to use the Baron's own words, "laughter, in a twinkle, expired on his lips" when they found themselves surrounded by scores of armed Indians, some springing from bush and thicket, while others swam from the opposite side of the river to join their tribesmen. For Lawson and his party to resist would mean instant death, so they at once yielded to the Indians, who started at a breakneck speed through the woods, compelling their prisoners to run with them. Toward morning they reached Catechna, the Indian town where King Hen-cock was in council with his warriors, who were even then, mayhap, planning the great massacre

which was to be visited upon New Bern shortly thereafter. While the above council continued its session, forty other "kings" or chiefs came with their followers. Among these savage dignitaries was "Core Tom," chief of the village of Core. On being arraigned before the council of forty chiefs, or "Assembly of the Great," as it was called, Lawson and DeGraffenried explained that they were on a friendly excursion, wishing to gather grapes, explore the river, and open up better trade relations with their Indian neighbors. By dint of much persuasion the captives seem to have succeeded in justifying themselves, and it was promised by the Indians that they should be set free the next day. But, unfortunately for the prisoners, two more chiefs arrived and desired to know the reasons for the prospective liberation of the explorers. This brought on another examination, when Lawson lost control of his temper and entered into a violent quarrel with Core Tom, the above-mentioned chief of the village of Core. After this, it was decided that all the party should be put to death. Lawson and DeGraffenried were first pounced upon by the Indians, who robbed them of all their belongings and dashed their hats and periwigs into the fire. Then they were carried out for execution. DeGraffenried, who survived the tragedy, has left behind him a graphic account of preparations for the slaughter, with descriptions of the wild caperings of the Indians, and the grave ceremonials of their High Priest, who was to officiate at the slaughter. "The priests," says DeGraffenried, "are generally magicians, and even conjure up the Devil." When the above gruesome ceremonies were drawing to an end, and the Indians seemed ready to proceed with their butchery, DeGraffenried gained the ear of one of the savages who understood English and gave him to understand that the great and powerful Queen of England, by whose orders he had brought his Swiss colonists to Caro-

lina, would be sure to avenge his blood; furthermore, he made promises of advantages which would accrue to the Indians should he be liberated. At length it was decided that the Baron's life should be spared, but that Lawson should be put to death. In telling of the separation of himself from his fellow-prisoner, it is said by DeGraffenried in his narrative: "Poor Lawson, being always left in the same place, I could understand that all was over with him, and that he would not be pardoned. He accordingly took leave from me, and told me to say farewell, in his name, to his friends. Alas! it grieved me much to see him in such danger, not being able to speak with him, nor to give him any consolation; so I tried to show him my compassion by a few signs." DeGraffenried states that nothing certain was ever known as to the manner of Lawson's execution, for the Indians would not tell how it was brought about. Some accounts said that he was burned alive, some that he was hanged, and others that his throat was cut with a razor taken from his own pocket. Another version, as mentioned in a letter from Major Christopher Gale, was to the effect that the Indians "stuck him full of fine small splinters of torchwood, like hogs' bristles, and so set them gradually on fire."

From the last mentioned version of how Lawson was killed it would appear that he met his death in a manner similar to that described by himself at an earlier period, when his history was written. In that work, while treating of the conduct of Indians toward their prisoners, he says: "They strive to invent the most inhuman butcheries for them that the devils themselves could invent or hammer out of hell; they esteeming death no punishment, but rather an advantage to him that is exported out of this into another world. Therefore they inflict on them torments wherein they prolong life in that miserable state as long as they can, and never miss

skulping [scalping] of them, as they call it, which is to cut off the skin from the temples, and taking the whole head of hair with it, as if it was a night-cap. Sometimes they take the top of the skull along with it; all which they preserve and carefully keep by them for a trophy of their conquest over their enemies. Others keep their enemies' teeth, which are taken in war, whilst others split the pitch-pine into splinters and stick them into the prisoner's body yet alive. Thus they light them, which burn like so many torches; and in this manner they make him dance round a great fire, every one buffeting and deriding him till he expires, when every one strives to get a bone or some relic of this unfortunate captive."

It was some days after the death of Lawson before DeGraffenried was set at liberty. During his captivity a proclamation (dated October 8, 1711), was dispatched to the Indians by Governor Alexander Spotswood, of Virginia, stating that upon advices received that they held captive the Baron DeGraffenried, he had thought proper to warn them that should any harm come to their prisoner the forces of Virginia would be called out to lay waste their towns, and no quarter would be given to man, woman or child.

When, at length, DeGraffenried did get back to New Bern, a woeful sight met his eyes. He was greeted by the survivors of his colony, who for many days had mourned him as dead; and from them he learned of the awful tragedy which had been enacted in his absence. On September 22, 1711, one hundred and thirty men, women and children had been inhumanly butchered by the red men; and those colonists who had escaped the tomahawk and scalping-knife were anxiously awaiting the military forces which were soon to come from South Carolina under Colonel John Barnwell. Major Gale, who went to solicit aid from Charleston, reported there that

the Baron DeGraffenried had also been murdered, for it was not then known that he had escaped.

In the second volume of the *Biographical History of North Carolina* is a sketch of Lawson, by Dr. Stephen B. Weeks, in which are recounted the various editions through which Lawson's History has gone. Dr. Weeks says: "His historical and descriptive work was possibly compiled for John Stevens' 'Collections of Voyages and Travels,' which was begun in 1708 and finished in 1710-'11. The second of the series, printed in 1709, is Lawson's 'New Voyage to Carolina.' It appeared in 1711 as a part of the edition of Stevens published that year, with the same title page. In 1714 and 1718 it was re-published under the title 'The History of Carolina' (London). There was a German edition in 1712, 'Alleneuster Beschreibung der Provintz Carolina' (Hamburg), and another in 1722. These were doubtless issued to encourage immigration, and perhaps in the interests of DeGraffenried's Palatine colony. The 1714 edition was re-printed in Raleigh in 1860, and again at Charlotte in 1903 by Colonel F. A. Olds. Both of the North Carolina editions are very poorly done."

To the above comments by Dr. Weeks it may be added that the volume published at Charlotte contains matter which Lawson did not write, including some of the papers of Colonel William Byrd, of Westover, in Virginia. This edition is also relieved of some plain language which would hardly pass for polite literature in our generation. Some language found in Lawson's work (the unexpurgated editions at least) is not gauged by the modern standards of chaste expression. To tell, in delicate terms of the various things which passed under his observation while sojourning among the Indians, might have been considered by the old historian too difficult a task. He was an observant traveler, who saw and heard

much; and, what he did see and hear, was told in words which would be highly embarrassing if read aloud in a drawing-room of the present day.

When Lawson deals with natural history and animal life, the terms he employs are quite amusing. Under the head of *insects* he includes alligators, rattlesnakes and about twenty other kinds of snakes, terrapins, frogs, etc. Among the snakes he mentions "brimstone snakes." As to what a "brimstone snake" is, the present writer must confess ignorance, but it is evidently a pretty hot insect. In referring to frogs, he says: "The most famous is the bullfrog, so called because he lows exactly like that beast, which makes strangers wonder (when by the side of a marsh) what is the matter, for they hear the frogs low and can see no cattle." Lawson also tells of a disease which can be easily cured by baking a toad and grinding up his ashes with orris root, this to be taken internally. I am afraid this remedy would hardly find much favor in the present day.

It is not generally known that a trial for witchcraft once took place in North Carolina, which resulted in the conviction and execution (probably by burning) of the accused. Lawson states that, though North Carolina had been settled for upwards of sixty years, the only executions which had ever occurred were those where a Turk had been convicted of murder, and an old woman had been condemned for witchcraft. Alluding to the witchcraft trial, Lawson adds that it took place many years before he came to the colony, but adds: "I wish it had been undone to this day, although they give a great many arguments to justify the deed which I had rather they should have had a hand in than myself; seeing I could never approve of taking life away upon such accusations, the justice whereof I could never yet understand."

In 1737, some years after Lawson's death, Dr. John

Brickell published a Natural History of North Carolina. It has often been charged that this was a plagiarism, almost verbatim, from Lawson; and Brickell did get much of his material from the earlier historian. In the above quoted sketch by Dr. Weeks, however, it is intelligently argued that Brickell was not a mere copyist. Referring to the charges of plagiarism, Dr. Weeks observes: "These statements do a grave injustice to Brickell. He tells us that his work is a 'compendious collection.' He took the work of Lawson, reworked it in his own fashion, extended or curtailed and brought it down to his own time. His work is more than twice as large as that of Lawson's; his professional training is everywhere patent, and there is much in it relating to the social condition of the colony. Brickell's work is fuller, more systematic and more like the work of a professional student; Lawson's seems more like that of a traveler and observer."

In 1705 Mr. Lawson joined Joel Martin in securing a charter to incorporate the town of Bath. This historic borough, or what at present remains of it, is the oldest incorporated town in the State. The land on which it was built belonged to Lawson and Martin; and the former, being a surveyor by profession, was doubtless the one who laid out its streets. As Lawson aided Baron DeGraffenried in founding New Bern, he probably laid out the streets of that place also, and possibly of Edenton.

Since the days of John Lawson no writer has ever attempted to treat of the history of North Carolina without building in some measure upon the literary labors of others, or upon the records of former generations. The book of nature was the only volume to which Lawson could turn for information. Amid the wilds of a new continent he lived, labored, wrote, explored, blazed paths through the trackless wilderness, made measurements of our seacoasts, laid out vil-

lages and promoted colonization. To wrest the soil from a fierce and warlike race of savages required men of supreme courage—men who could be killed but never cowed—and who would fearlessly bear privations and face death when so doing would advance the great purposes they sought to accomplish.

Forceful is the figure of speech voiced by some writer who says that the pyramids of Egypt, doting with age, have forgotten the names of their founders. Immeasurably more mighty than the pyramids, and not doting with age either, is the great American continent, whose settlement was begun by our colonial progenitors; and succeeding generations should see to it that the names and deeds of these "founders" are held in grateful and everlasting remembrance.

SOME OVERLOOKED NORTH CAROLINA HISTORY.

BY J. T. ALDERMAN.

Old books are sometimes quite interesting. For a number of years Waln's Life of Lafayette, published in 1826, has been in my library unread. Recently my attention was attracted to it, and I found it very entertaining. Among other things I came across something which was news to me.

In his account of the siege of Yorktown, the fact comes out that Lord Cornwallis, when about to be hemmed in by the American and French troops, began to look about for some way to extricate himself from their toils. On the arrival of the French fleet in the Bay Cornwallis determined to leave Yorktown and by forced marches, cross North Carolina and join the British forces near Charleston, S. C.

Waln says: "The most positive intelligence was soon received by Lafayette that Lord Cornwallis intended to penetrate with his army from Yorktown to South Carolina by land. He was moving from York to James River, and was getting hits boats across from Queen's creek to College landing to go from thence to Jamestown, then cross the James River to Cobham's to proceed from thence to South Carolina."

"Upon the first intelligence of this movement of Cornwallis, the most animated measures were adopted by Governor Burke to cooperate with Muhlenburg. Every boat on the Roanoke, Neuse and Meherin rivers was secured under guard or destroyed; every crossing was placed under guard and crossed by abatis; and the militia were ordered out *en masse*. The whole State of North Carolina, from the Dan River to the sea-coast appears to have been set in motion by this active Governor.

"Cornwallis had prepared a number of light pontoons on wagons, and was ready for the march. The arrival of the French fleet under Count De Grasse had been the cause of this movement; the departure of the French fleet to engage the British under Admiral Greaves delayed it. Below him he saw the whole country in arms to oppose his retreat, while Green waited in the South to receive him on the point of the bayonette," etc.

After reading the above it occurred to me that the Colonial Records ought to throw some light upon this subject. Investigation brings out plenty of evidence of the proposed invasion, and of the determination of the people of North Carolina to dispute his passage through the State to South Carolina.

The following extracts are from the State Records, Vol. XV., and are interesting, especially as they throw light on this matter.

Page 626. The following is a letter from Lafayette to Gen. Allen Jones. Dated. Ruffins, August 27, 1781:

DEAR SIR:—From the intelligencies lately received I am almost satisfied that the enemy mean to attempt a retreat through North Carolina, and as it is of the highest importance every obstruction should be thrown in their way, I request you will be particular in having every boat on the Roanoke collected and destroyed. I would not wish it delayed as they may fall into the enemy's hands, and it would furnish them with the means of crossing and render your opposition more difficult. I wish you to collect, without loss of time, a sufficient number of militia to render these attempts ineffectual. * * * *

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

LAFAYETTE.

Page 629. Letter of Col. H. Murfree to Governor Burke:

MURFREE'S LANDING, September 1, 1781.

SIR:—I received your excellency's favor of the 31st August, and observed its contents. I will lose no time in securing the boats, etc. * *

I am yours, etc., H. MURFREE

Page 630. Letter from Col. J. S. Wells to General Jones.

CAMP COWPER'S MILLS, September 1, 1781.

DEAR GENERAL:—I have the pleasure to inform you that the long expected French fleet has at last arrived in our Bay. * * * * In consequence of the said fleet's arrival, Lord Cornwallis is about moving from York to Jamestown and is getting his boats across from Queen's Creek to the College Landing, from thence to Jamestown and there to cross James River to Cobham, from that place to South Carolina. General Wayne and General Muhlenberg are on this side James River and I expect some of the French Frigates will go up the river in order to prevent his Lordship's crossing. But should he cross you may expect to see us in your quarter of the country. His Lordship must never be suffered to cross Roanoke. * * * *

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN SCK. WELLS, Collo.

Gen. W. Caswell to Governor Burke.

Under dates of September 4th, again on 8th, again on September 14th, Caswell wrote to Governor Burke that every provision was being made to fortify the country and put a large army in the field to dispute the march of Cornwallis should he attempt to cross the State.

The records show that the Militia was being collected and equipped in the whole State east of the Piedmont section. The people at that time were encouraged; they had gained considerable confidence in their power to resist the invading armies. Many of them had seen service during the campaigns in South Carolina and with Greene in west North Carolina. The officers knew better how to collect and maintain an army.

THE NORTH CAROLINA MILITIA OF REVOLUTIONARY TIMES.

Unjust criticisms have been heaped upon the North Carolina Militia during Revolutionary times. The youth of our country should know that historians were unjust to the men who served well their country at a time when valiant services were most needed. No doubt there were individuals in the ranks of the militia who were not brave soldiers.

An investigation of the services of the militia during those stormy years would give some idea of the valuable services rendered to the Cause of Liberty by the North Carolina Militia.

The first decided victory on the field of battle for Independence was gained by the North Carolina militia at Moore's Creek. Ramsour's Mill, Kings Mountain, Guilford Court House, and a hundred encounters with the Tories and British bore testimony to their bravery and courage. After the battle of Kings Mountain Cornwallis precipitately retreated from Charlotte to escape the North Carolina militia. A large number of the State Militia joined General Mogan's forces and helped to win the great victory at the Cowpens. The Tories were held in check through fear of the Militia in the disaffected sections of the State. A large number of the Militia went from the State to help the people of South Carolina.

At the battle of Camden Dixon's Brigade of North Carolina Militia was the last to leave the field. In the State Records, Vol. XV, page 384, is an interesting account of the bravery of this brigade of North Carolina Militia.

In that unfortunate battle General Gates had unadvisedly rushed his men into the battle unprepared for the conflict. Without proper precaution he had attempted to make a night attack on the British. The British were making the same kind of move during the night when they met in the darkness. The disastrous result is well known. The writer in the page named says:

"General Gates attempted to arrange the American troops in the darkness.

"At length the army was arranged in line of battle in the following order: General Gist's brigade on the right, the North Carolina Militia in close order, two deep, in the cen-

ter, and the Virginia Militia in like order with another corps on the left; the other troops were arranged in other parts of the field. * * * The enemy attacked and drove in our light party in front, and after the first fire charged the Militia with bayonets, whereupon the whole gave way, except Colonel Dixon's regiment of North Carolina Militia; the British cavalry continuing to harass the rear such was the panic diffused through the whole that utmost and unremitting exertions of the Generals to rally them proved ineffectual. They ran like a torrent and bore all before them. This shameful desertion of the Militia gave the enemy an opportunity of bending their whole force against the Maryland troops and Dixon's North Carolina Militia. The conflict was obstinate and bloody, and lasted fifteen minutes. Dixon's Militia standing firm with the regulars of the Maryland line, and pushing bayonets to the last. They were then furiously charged by British horse whom they completely vanquished, allowing only two of the British to escape. These brave militiamen suffered greatly, having lost half of their number, and to their immortal honor made their retreat good. * * * After this defeat the yeomanry of North Carolina immediately turned out unsolicited. An army was collected which consisted of between 4,000 and 5,000 men."

With such experiences with the North Carolina Militia, it is not surprising that Cornwallis hesitated to make another attempt to pass through the State.

NOTE.—Biographical Sketch of Prof. J. T. Alderman appeared in No. 3 Vol. VI, January, 1907.

THE WHITE PICTURES.

BY W. J. PEELE.

The pictures of John White purport to have been painted on Roanoke Island, and if this did not appear from inspection, the execution of them there would have been presumed from their character and fidelity.

Any one who visits the Island now can still recognize the scenes, the ground plans, on which the pictures are laid. The Sounds, the Banks, the sand hills, the inlets and the Island itself with its outline and configuration, are unmistakable. Then, too, White was selected by Queen Elizabeth and sent there to paint what he saw, and had ample opportunity to do it, for he remained a year lacking five days. How well he executed his commission may be gathered from the fact that two years later he was sent over to our shores as the governor of "Virginia"—perhaps the only artist who ever held that office. The "lost colony" seems to have been a sufficient argument against the repetition of the experiment.

The originals are still in the British Museum, and fairly executed copies preserving the colors are in the Smithsonian Institute. These copies were made, I think, in 1845.

The copies before me are those reproduced in DeBry's edition of 1590, cut, as he says, in copper with great pains, and printed in Germany, with their descriptions subjoined, which appear to have been written by White himself. DeBry's book with the descriptions in four languages (or rather his four books, for he got out an English, Latin, French and German edition), was the joint product of several minds, among them Raleigh's, Hariot's, and Hakluyt's.

The title of DeBry's book (in modern spelling) is "The true pictures and fashions of the people of that part of Amer-

ica now called Virginia, discovered by Englishmen, sent thither in the year of our Lord 1585, at the special charge and direction of the Honorable Sir Walter Raleigh, Knight, Lord Warden of the Slannaries in the Duchies of Cornwall and Oxford, who therein hath been favored and autorified by her Majesty and her letters patent, translated into English by Richard Hakluyt, diligently collected and drawn by John White, who was sent thither specially for the same purpose by the said Sir Walter Raleigh, the year 1585 and also the year 1588, now cut in copper and first published by Theodore de Bry at his own charges."

There is no other record that White came over here in 1588. The writer probably meant 1587. The other date mentioned, 1585, if it referred to the discovery by Amidas and Barlowe, should be 1584; Lane's exploration in 1585 and 1586 were much more extensive, but they were not the first made by the English in eastern North Carolina.

The matter is set in a clearer light by giving the most material parts of De Bry's preface: *"To the Gentle Reader."*

"* * * I was very willing to offer unto you the true pictures of those people which by the help of Master Richard Hakluyt, of Oxford, minister of God's Word, who first encouraged me to publish the work, I carved out of the very original matter of Master John White, an English painter who was sent into the country by the Queen's Majesty only to draw the topography of the place and to describe in a manner true to life the forms of the inhabitants, their apparel, manner of living and their fashions, at the special charges of the worthy Knight, Sir Walter Raleigh, who bestowed no small sum of money in the search and discovery of that country from the year 1584 to the end of the year 1588. * * * I carved them * * at London, and brought them hither to Frankfort, where I and my sons have taken earnest

pains in graving the pictures thereof in copper, seeing it is a matter of no small importance. * * * I have caused it (the descriptions of the paintings) to be rendered into very good French and Latin by the aid of a very worshipful friend of mine. [Probably Hariot.]

"Finally, I heartily request thee [the reader] that if any seek to counterfeit them, my books, for in these days many are so malicious as that they seek to gain by other men's labors, thou would give no credit unto such counterfeited draught. For divers secret marks lie hidden in my pictures which will breed confusion unless they be well observed."

De Bry's book contains twenty-three engravings. The first is Hariot's map of Lane's explorations, showing the Albemarle and Pamlico and Currituck Sounds, with their tributaries and islands, the Banks and their inlets. This is omitted in the copy in the State Library.

The ground plan of the second engraving, which serves also as a map, though its title "the arrival of the Englishmen in Virginia" indicates what it was intended to portray, centers around a boat load of pioneers approaching the village of Roanoke near the north end of the Island; or perhaps, the village itself is intended to be the central point. Behind the approaching pioneers is the inlet, Trinity Harbor, through which they have sailed, on either side of which two ships are riding at anchor in the ocean. Toward the village in front of them, one sitting in the prow of the boat is holding out a cross to indicate the pious purpose of their coming. Beyond what is now called Croatan Sound, some four or five miles from the Island, appears the village of Dassamonguepuek. On the north bank of what is now the Albemarle Sound, appears the village of Pasquenoke, of which the name Pasquotank may be a corruption. The entire view is less than thirty miles in any direction, and could be cov-

ered with a field glass on a fair day from a tower in Manteo. The miniature villages are surrounded by corn patches, and, when magnified show the surprising degree of skill with which they were sketched on so small a scale.

The description of the landing contains very suggestive material for the artist who will one day immortalize himself by working it into a great painting of the scene.

* * * "Sailing further we came to a good big Island, the inhabitants thereof as soon as they saw us, began to make a great and horrible cry as people which had never before seen men apparelled like us, and ran away making outcries like wild beasts or men out of their wits. But being gently called back we offered them our wares, such as glass beads, knives, dolls, and other trifles which we thought they delighted in. So they stood still and perceiving our good will and courtesy came fawning upon us and bade us welcome. Then they brought us to their village in the Island called Roanoke and unto their Weroance or Prince, who entertained us with reasonable courtesy, although they were amazed at the first sight of us.

"Such was our arrival into the part of the world which we call Virginia, the statue of body of which people, their attire and manner of living, their feasts and banquets, I will particularly declare unto you."

I should add in conclusion that the White paintings should be elaborately discussed by one capable of judging them from an artist's standpoint. Recently Mr. Albert Sterner, under the auspices of the Historical Commission, visited Roanoke Island after first examining De Bry. How he was impressed is told in an article recently published in the *News and Observer,* which it may not be improper here to reproduce.

THE SCENE OF A GREAT PAINTING—THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION SENDS MR. ALBERT STERNER TO ROANOKE ISLAND.

I had long thought it ought to be painted. It looked like a picture when I saw it in 1902—I mean the place where Amidas and Barlowe landed in 1584.

The little island was sleeping the sleep of centuries embowered in evergreens very much as it was when the English knelt there to thank God for the new possession. The long yellow banks glistened in the sunlight. The blue Atlantic rolled beyond. Some two or three hundred yards from Fort Raleigh is a little cove on the island shore filled in by the waters of Roanoke Sound. It is almost opposite the fort, and with the water a little deeper, as it may well have been then, it was almost an ideal place for the landing. North Carolina has made no memorial of this first great step in the transcontinental march of the Anglo-Saxon race. Centuries have gone by and the spread of the all-conquering race is arrested only by the Pacific. Monuments and memorials have been erected along the lines of its progress, but it has forgotten its cradle on the shores of the Old North State.

In a few months many tens of thousands of Americans will return to a spot in Virginia a little more than a hundred miles away to do honor to the memories which rightly cluster about it, and North Carolina has stretched to her sister across her border a generous hand of congratulation. Shall she do any thing for herself?

Framed by the banks of "Hatorask" on the east and the land of Dassamonguepuek on the west, and set an emerald in the golden waters of its four sounds, the island is as perfect a picture as it was when Queen Elizabeth sent John White to paint it. And he did paint it in a little picture nine by six inches which escaped the great London fire of 1666 and is

still preserved in the British Museum. The reproduction of this picture "The Coming of the English into Virginia"—North Carolina—on a great canvas by an artist of national and international fame is one of the debts which the State owes to herself—owes to her sister States—to the race which begun its new home here—its last and greatest home—owes to posterity—owes to the world whose representative peoples are about to assemble near our shores.

In December Mr. Albert Sterner, of New York, who illustrates for the great Northern periodicals, visited the island at the request of the Historical Commission. The people did not know he was coming and the regular boat was out of repair so there was nothing but a gas freight boat to take him from Elizabeth City to Manteo.

Nothing daunted, however, he went accompanied by his wife, herself an artist in temperament and enthusiasm. There was some natural hesitation at the acommodations or rather the lack of them, but the London historian, Mr. Withington, whom he had along with him and who had been everywhere and seen everything was delighted at the prospect of a terra incognita. Soon the little freight boat was gliding down the chocolate colored waters of the Pasquotank River. The sun, near its setting, struggled hard with the mists up the sound until finally, no bigger than a bull's eye, it was snuffed out. Light breezes were behind us and I suppose they bore pleasant odors with them, but we were sitting over an oil stove and fumes of this emphasized by those of the gasoline in front of us were quite sufficient to swallow up any faint aromas from the woods. In six hours we were at Manteo. Thawed out we chartered a boat for our return—the freight boat was to start back at five o'clock a. m.

A noise like that of a dozen freight trains loaded with bass drums was echoing up into the sky. It was the Atlantic

growling down the banks toward Hatteras in token of wind the next day. This we got in due season according to promise and some of our much traveled party got sea-sick on the Albemarle Sound.

The sun rose fine the next morning for those of us who got up with it. Our historian and his wife rose considerably before it, and he escaped from his exploration wet to his knees. This did not disturb him at all, however, for in a few minutes he was whizzing along through the frosty air on the road to Fort Raleigh. The sub-tropical evergreens—live oak, the yupon and the holly—brightened our way. We had sent the boat round to meet us toward the north end of the island near where the colonists landed. Out of the vehicles we made our way from the fort some two or three hundred yards to the shore of Roanoke Sound, and this was the place we had brought the great artist all the way from New York to see. Up the shore a few straggling pines, relics of the primeval forests, sentinelled the outskirts of the woods and marked the undulations of the shore. The little cove where probably the first boat load of colonists drew ashore curved gracefully inland. The quick eye of the artist caught the scene, and his bosom swelled with enthusiasm as he saw for the first time how well nature had framed "the cradle of the Anglo-American race." Behind him were the woods bedecked with evergreen. In front of him the yellow waters of Roanoke Sound brightened in the sunshine. Beyond stretched the banks, down which a flock of wild geese were proceeding in their orderly flight.

"The picture is worthy of the event," were almost the first words that escaped him. And this was always what I expected. He spoke little, but his enthusiasm was contagious as he strode up and down the sands of that historic spot. The scene which White painted on the island in his "true pic-

tures" of more than three centuries ago arose before him. He saw the coming boat freighted with the pioneers of the nation which is called "time's noblest off-spring and the last." He saw the Indians who first fled with "horrible cries" and then came fawning back upon their conquerors. He saw the village of Roanoke with its rude houses of bark. "They have robbed you of your birthright," exclaimed his wife—and she never knew it till she saw the paintings and the picture before her which verified them. But have they done it? We shall see.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF CONTRIBUTORS.

COMPILED AND EDITED BY MRS. E. E. MOFFITT.

RICHARD BENBURY CREECY.

The subject of this sketch was one of the first contributors to the BOOKLET. In volume 1st, No. 5, he wrote a sketch of that heroic maiden, Betsy Dowdy, of Currituck Beach, who made the famous midnight ride to carry news of the probable invasion of the Albemarle section by the British troops under Lord Dunmore. Col. Creecy has given a graphic account of this incident introduced by these memorable lines:

> "Oh woman timid as a child
> When skies are bright, serene and mild:
> Let evil come with angry brow,
> A lion-hearted hero thou."

This is but another recorded instance that North Carolina had her heroines as well as her heroes; tho' history has usually been silent concerning them.

Col. Creecy, one of the ablest editors in our State, was born December 19, 1813, on Drummond's Point, the oldest settlement in North Carolina on Albemarle Sound.

He is descended from Job Creecy, a Huguenot emigrant from France, a representative of that branch of Christians noted in general for their austere virtues and the singular purity of their lives.

He is also descended from General Thomas Benbury, one of the leading statesmen of the Revolution, a member of the Provincial Congress of August 25, 1774, also member of the Edenton District Committee of Safety; paymaster of the 5th Regiment, who fought at the battle of Great Bridge, which engagement was so successful for the Americans that the British troops were forced to retreat.

Col. Creecy is also descended from William Skinner, who was Brigadier-General of State troops; Treasurer of the

Eastern District under Governor Caswell, and rendered in other ways important service during the Revolutionary War. With such sturdy and patriotic ancestors it is no wonder that the subject of this sketch holds on so tenaciously to life—a life filled with service for his State and country.

Col. Creecy was educated in the best schools that the State afforded, was graduated from the State University in 1835, studied law and obtained his license in 1842. After three years he abandoned the practice of law and devoted himself to agricultural pursuits. In 1870, finding that his tastes were inclined to journalism and other lines of literary work, he founded the *"Elizabeth City Economist,"* a paper which he has continued to publish to the present time, and which has a large circulation in Eastern North Carolina. His productions are considered of such literary merit, wit and humor and philosophy combined, as to enlist the attention of a reader from start to finish.

His article on the history of the Albemarle section has made the characters of the Revolution such living actors that their names have become household words with later generations. Would that every section of our beloved State had a historian like he—one to write a "Grandfather's Tales" for the children from the mountains to the sea.

Col. Creecy has never sought political preferment, which in many instances "blunts the edge of husbandry;" his line of work has been in the path of duty. Imbued with a generous ambition and a passionate love for his State and its honorable history, he has rescued from oblivion many facts that substantiate the claim that North Carolina stands foremost in the great struggle for liberty.

Col. Creecy has written many reminiscences that are keys to the book of history, opening the way to diligent research. His productions embrace a diversity of subjects, including history, biography, legends and poetry. One of his books,

called "Grandfather's Tales of North Carolina History," is widely read and highly recommended. The dedication, is its keynote. "To the youth of North Carolina I dedicate this volume, with the earnest hope that they will learn from its pages some lessons of patriotism, and will be strengthened in their love for their native State by these memorials of the past that I have sought to perpetuate for their benefit."

In November, 1844, Col. Creecy was married to Miss Mary B. Perkins, whose ancestors figured conspicuously in the Revolutionary War in defense of their country. Numerous descendants live to do him honor.

Capt. Ashe, in his biographical sketch, says: "Being asked for some suggestion that might be helpful to young people Col. Creecy suggests 'honesty, integrity, friendliness, timeliness, godliness, benevolence, cheerfulness, firmness in the right, modest assurance, and a careful study of great speeches by great men.' "

In conclusion we quote the following from a recent issue of *Leslie's Weekly*:

"One of the most interesting characters in the country, especially in the view of newspaper men, is Colonel R. B. Creecy, editor of the *Economist,* published at Elizabeth City, N. C., who bears the distinction of being the oldest editor in active work in the United States. Colonel Creecy is in his ninety-second year and still wields the editorial pen. He claims four longevities, being also the oldest living graduate of the University of North Carolina, and according to a leading Boston publication, an authority on the subject, the oldest long-seine fisherman in the world, having in early life established the Greenfield fishery on Albemarle Sound, which is still in existence. He studied and mastered stenography at the age of seventeen, and thus holds that there can be no older stenographer living than he."

WILLIAM JOSEPH PEELE.

William J. Peele, the subject of this sketch, was born in Northampton County, North Carolina. Was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1879. Settled in Raleigh. In 1880 he studied law under Hon. George V. Strong, in which year he was granted license to practice.

In entering on his career as a citizen of his native State he made its advancement a matter of study. The needs of an Agricultural and Mechanical College for the State was among the first things that claimed his attention, and was pressed by Mr. Peele and others to a successful realization, and, to-day, with its fine equipment and its long roll of students, attests its growing influence and stands as a monument to the promoters of the scheme. When the corner-stone of this great State institution was laid, on August the 22d, 1888, Mr. Peele delivered the historical address, which was a masterly effort, breathing such love of State as to inspire his hearers to greater individual effort to advance its interests. When the college was re-organized and Dr. George T. Winston was elected President, Mr. Peele was a member of the board of trustees, and took a most active interest in the plans for its enlargement.

Mr. Peele, with his keen sense of observation, foreseeing the possibilities that lay in waiting for active workers, was instrumental in the establishment of the State Literary and Historical Association, and was for several years chairman of its executive committee. Its chief purposes were:

First. To promote the reading habit among the people of North Carolina.

Second. To stimulate the production of literature in our State.

Third. To collect and preserve historical material.

In carrying out these purposes the Association had in mind "the improvement of the public schools, in the establishment of public libraries, in the formation of literary clubs, in the collection and re-publication of North Carolina literature worthy to be preserved and now rapidly passing away, in the publication of an annual record or biography of North Carolina literary productions, in the collection of historical material and the foundation of an historical museum, and in the correction of slanders, misrepresentations and other injustice done the State."

Mr. Peele was one of the prime factors in this movement, the results of which are apparent, one of the most important being the establishment of libraries in the public schools.

Mr. Peele has written much on the settlement of Roanoke Island, emphasizing the fact that Sir Walter Raleigh is the central figure in the English colonization of America; that on North Carolina shores was the first landing and settlement of Sir Walter Raleigh's colonies on Roanoke Island, the birthplace of Virginia Dare, the first Anglo-American and the cradle of American civilization. Through this apparent failure of Raleigh to colonize America, by his repeated efforts he became the inspiration of the Jamestown expedition, and now, while the great exposition at Jamestown is attracting the attention of the world, North Carolina is coming forward to do her part to make the celebration worthy of the man and of the events he inspired.

Mr. Peele compiled a chronological compendium of the principal events in the life of Sir Walter Raleigh, from 1552 to 1618, which shows beyond controversy that *Sir Walter Raleigh* was the statesman who wrested our continent from Spain, the pioneer who first planted the seeds of law and liberty and Anglo-Saxon civilization in America.

In the year 1898 Mr. Peele published in permanent form a

work entitled "Lives of Distinguished North Carolinians," a handsome volume of 605 pages, printed in excellent taste—an ornament to the men whose virtues it illustrates. This introduction is intended to embrace that period in which were cast the lives and labors of the subjects of the book, and showing how history is being miswritten to the prejudice of the South, and has been for a century. This book is the product of twenty-four minds, and among them the brightest the State has afforded. The *lives* and the best labors of these men are brought together and edited by Mr. Peele—had he done no other literary work than this, sufficient to say, he is entitled to the plaudits of the whole citizenship of the State.

Mr. Peele is now chairman of the Historical Commission, which was established by the Legislature in 1903. This Commission consists of five members, who are appointed by the Governor of the State. It is hoped that he may assist in adding other publications to the permanent history and literature of the State.

THE BOOKLET is indebted to Mr. Peele for an article published two years ago, entitled "The First English Settlement in America," a study in location, he showed that Amedas and Barlow came through an inlet north of Roanoke Island, and fixed their landing place at the north end of the island, thus preserving the historical value of John White's pictures and laying the foundation for a great painting, which will ultimately be made by an artist worthy of the undertaking.

GENERAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION.

THE SOCIETY AND ITS OBJECTS.

The Society Daughters of the Revolution was organized August 20, 1891, and was incorporated the following September as a society national in its character and purposes. The terms of membership of this Society are based upon *direct descent* from Revolutionary ancestors.

The objects of the Society as stated in the Constitution are:—"to perpetuate the patriotic spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence; to commemorate prominent events connected with the War of the Revolution; to collect, publish and preserve the rolls, records and historic documents relating to that period; to encourage the study of the country's history, and to promote sentiments of friendship and common interest among the members of the Society."

ELIGIBILITY TO MEMBERSHIP.

Any woman shall be eligible to membership in the Daughters of the Revolution who is above the age of 18 years, of good character, and a lineal descendant of an ancestor who—

(1) was signer of the Declaration of Independence, a member of the Continental Congress, or a member of the Congress, Legislature, or General Court of any of the Colonies or States; or—

(2) rendered civil, military or naval service under the authority of any of the thirteen Colonies, or of the Continental Congress; or—

(3) by service rendered during the War of the Revolution became liable to the penalty of treason against the government of Great Britain:—

provided that such ancestor always remained loyal to the cause of American Independence.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Every application for membership in this Society must be made in duplicate upon a form furnished by the Board of Managers, must be signed by the applicant and acknowledged before a notary. The endorsement of two members of the Society, or of two persons of acknowledged standing in the community in which the applicant resides, is also required. Such applications should be presented to the Secretary of the Society of the State in which the applicant resides; where no State Society exists, applications may be addressed to the Recording Secretary-General. The names and addresses of State secretaries will be furnished upon application to the Corresponding Secretary-General.

In filling out application blanks candidates are kindly requested to observe the following directions:

1. See that the line of descent is clearly stated, give the maiden names of all female ancestors, and also furnish dates of birth and death where possible. It is not necessary to show the pedigree any farther back than the ancestor from whom eligibility is derived.

2. If the applicant is married, give own maiden name and also full name, title and address of husband.

3. Write all proper names *legibly;* this is especially necessary with family name since there are often differences in old-time and modern spelling of such.

4. The record of the ancestors' service should be given fully but concisely. Give exact title of all books of reference, naming page and paragraph; where possible send a certified copy of State or pension records. This will be returned after the application has been accepted.

The Society does not accept Encyclopedias, Genealogical Works, or Town and County Histories, except such as contain *Rosters,* as authorities for proofs of service.

Reference to authorities in manuscript must be accompanied by certified copies, and authentic family records must be submitted, if required.

5. Send the initiation fee of $2.00 and the first year's dues with the application paper. Should the application not be accepted both will be returned.

When an applicant claims descent from more than one Revolutionary ancestor, then "Supplemental" applications must be made in duplicate for each ancestor; these are treated in form and procedure precisely as original applications. A fee of one dollar is charged for each supplemental paper filed.

PROOFS OF SERVICE.

In seeking proofs of service, the applicant must first know from which of the Thirteen Original States the ancestor served; and, if possible, the town and county. When writing officials simply ask for "the military service of ..... of ....., said to have been a soldier in the Revolutionary War," and they will inform you precisely what rank, length of service, etc., the records show. If the applicant has reason to believe an ancestor drew a pension under the acts of Congress of 1818 or 1832 the record of military service may be obtained by writing to Commissioner of Pensions, Washington, D. C.

Heitman's Historical Register contains the names, rank and service of the Officers of the Continental Army, and is accepted as an official record.

Applicants are referred to the following officials and records for certificates of military service:

Massachusetts.—The State has published nine volumes of the names of Revolutionary soldiers. These volumes are in the Library of the General Society, and may be found in all large reference libraries throughout the country. For names not contained in these volumes, applications may be

made to the Secretary of State, Boston, Mass. A fee is charged for this service.

VERMONT.—Gen. T. S. Peck, Adjutant-General, Montpelier.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—Secretary of State, Concord.

RHODE ISLAND.—Secretary of State, Providence.

NORTH CAROLINA.—Mrs. Helen deB. Wills, Raleigh.

A fee of one to three dollars is charged by State officials for looking up records and furnishing a certificate of service.

INITIATION FEES AND DUES.

The initiation fee is two dollars and the annual dues for members at large are three dollars, payable to the Treasurer-General on or before the first day of April in each year. Applicants who enter through State Societies pay their annual dues to the State Society in which their names are enrolled. The fiscal year for all members begins on the first day of April and closes on the thirty-first day of March in each calendar year.

INSIGNIA, ETC.

The insignia of the Society is a badge of gold and blue enamel suspended from a gold bar by a ribbon of buff edged with blue. This may be obtained on receipt of check or money order for ten dollars, payable to Miss Mary A. Kent, Treasurer-General. Miniature badge, one dollar; stationery stamped with the seal of the Society, sixty and seventy-five cents per box, may be obtained at the office of the Society. Engrossed certificate of membership, three dollars.

The office of the General Society is Room 901, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, and is open daily except Sunday, from 10 to 4 o'clock.

Communications concerning the Society and inquiries may be addressed to Mrs. John A. Heath, Corresponding Secretary-General.

ABSTRACTS OF WILLS.

From Secretary of State's Office, North Carolina. (Historical and Geneological Register.)

Samuel Scolley, Bertie county, Feb. 18th, 1752, Mrs. Mary Fullington, alias Davis, spouse of Robert Davis, deceased; brother, Jerman, Robert Scolley of Lerwick, friend Dr. William Cathcart; Robert Todd, of Norfolk, Va., beloved sons-in-law Cullen and Thomas Pollock. I give unto Tully Williams his father's sword.

Elizabeth Scolley,* Bertie; Dec. 1st, 1766, sons, Thomas and Cullen Pollock; children of Richard Sanderson, children of Tully Williams, Frances Lenox, wife of Dr. Robert Lenox, John Scolley, of Boston, Peggy and Fanny Cathcart; Sarah Black, daughter of Joseph, Thomas Black, son of Joseph, Sophia Rasor, daughter of Edward; former husband Thomas Pollock; Thomas Pollock, Dr. Robert Lexon, Richard Sanderson and Joseph Blount,Executors. Test. Henry Hardison, Fred'k Hardison, ...

Thomas Sprott; Anson, January 5th, 1757—Son John Clark, daughters Mary Barnett; Ann Barnett, Susannah Polk and Martha Sprott; son Thomas, wife, Andrew Sprott and Thomas Polk, executors. Test. William Barnett, James Sprott, James Campbell.

Isaac Hunter, of Chowan, April 17th, 1752. April Court, 1753; sons Elisha, Jesse, Isaac and Daniel, daughter Allee Perry daughter Elizabeth Perry, daughter Hannah Riddick, daughter Rachel Walton, daughter Sarah Hunter; grandchildren, son and daughter of my daughter Jane, namely, Jesse Phillips, and Mary Perry and Sarah Fields. Zilpha Parker, daughter of Jonathan Parker.

Mrs. H. DeB. Wills,
Genealogist.

*First husband was John Crisp; second, Thomas Pollock; third, Samuel Scolley, formerly of Boston. Tully Williams' wife was sister of Mrs. Scolley. Frances Lennox was daughter of Cullen Pollock. Peggy and Frances Cathcart were daughters of Dr William Cathcart, and second wife Prudence West.

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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION ISSUED UNDER
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"NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION"

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THE Commission wishes to be informed of the location of any unpublished manuscripts, letters, documents or records, public and private, relating to the history of North Carolina. The Commission is authorized to collect and publish such material. The original documents are preferred, but if these cannot be secured, arrangements will be made to have certified copies made without cost to the owners. The possessors of such documents are urged to co-operate with the Commission in their efforts to preserve and render available the sources of the history of our State.

All communications should be addressed to the Secretary.